

REMARKS

The present application has been reviewed in light of the Final Office action mailed on April 13, 2007 and the supplemental Final Office action mailed June 14, 2007. Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Claims 1 through 18 and 28 through 48 are pending in the instant patent application. Claims 49 – 62 have been added for the Examiner's consideration. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1 through 18, 28 through 46 and Claim 48 have been canceled.

I. Specification

The claim for priority has been amended to include the relationship of the instant application with the parent applications. In addition, the Brief Description of the drawings has been amended to provide reference to Figures 7A and 7B.

II. Allowable Claims

The Examiners indication of allowability of Claim 47 is acknowledged and respectfully appreciated.

III. New Claims

Claims 49 through 62 have been added to the present application. The new claims depend on allowed Claim 47 and are directed to the subject matter of claims 1 through 18, now canceled. No new subject matter has been added. The new claims

depend from Claim 47, therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the new claims are in condition for allowance.

IV. Oath / Declaration

In the supplemental office action dated June 14, 2007, the Examiner stated the oath or declaration was defective. A new oath or declaration is being filed concurrently with this amendment. The submission of a new oath or declaration in compliance with 37 CFR 1.67(a) is proper to traverse this rejection.

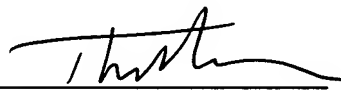
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the application and allowance of all pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the examiner believe that a telephone interview may facilitate prosecution of this application, the examiner is respectfully requested to telephone Applicants' undersigned representative at the number indicated below.

Please charge any deficiency as well as any other fee(s) that may become due under 37 C.F.R § 1.16 and/or 1.17 at any time during the pendency of this application, or credit any overpayment of such fee(s), to Deposit Account No. 21-0550.

Respectfully submitted.



Thomas A. Beaton
Reg. No. 46,543
Attorney for Applicants

Date: 8/14/07

United States Surgical
A DIVISION OF TYCO HEALTHCARE GROUP LP
195 McDermott Road
North Haven, CT 06473
(303) 581-6831